to be converted into Express Highways by Government during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) 45 proposals pertaining to Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal for declaration of new National Highways have been received. These proposals would be considered alonwith similar proposals received from other' State Governments during the next consideration, after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

(c) There is no proposal to convert any National Highway into Expressway in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

Damage to Mumbai-Pune Expressway

2040. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six lane Mumbai-Pune Express way, the pride of Maharashtra, has developed extensive multifarious cracks, within six months of its commission, and became out of use;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the depth and gravity of the damage caused, and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it reveals some latent and patent technical faults; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to set the expressway in order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) Mumbai-Pune Expressway is not a National Highway. It is being maintained by Government of Maharashtra. This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways.